

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Gwendolyn Brooks, Poet

1. Why was high school difficult for Gwendolyn?

High school was difficult for Gwendolyn because according to the text, “She was quiet and didn’t have many friends.”

2. What do you think Gwendolyn Brooks meant when she said that she “began playing with words”? What are some ways people can “play with words”?

Possible Answer: I think that it meant she started writing poems. Some ways that people can “play with words” include: figurative language such as alliteration, onomatopoeia, metaphors, similes, puns, idioms.

3. How did Gwendolyn Brooks positively impact her community?

Possible Answers:

- ☐ Gwendolyn impacted her community by teaching people how to write poetry.
- ☐ Gwendolyn impacted her community by working for the NAACP.
- ☐ Gwendolyn sponsored poetry contests for people in prison.

4. In the passage it states, “She was the first Black to be awarded this prestigious, or highly respected award.” Give another example of a prestigious award that is given to people.

Possible Answers:

- ☐ Emmy, Tony, Oscar
- ☐ Presidential Medal of Honor
- ☐ MVP
- ☐ Olympic Medal

# Sonia Sotomayor, Supreme Court Justice

1. What caused Sonia to change her dream of becoming a detective to a judge?

Sonia was diagnosed with diabetes so she was discouraged from participating in a job that would require physical fitness and strength.

2. How does paragraph 3 relate to paragraph 11?

The paragraphs related to each other because they both mention books. In paragraph 3, it mentions that Sonia loved to read the *Nancy Drew* series. In paragraph 11, it mentions that Sonia has written several books.

3. What actions showed that Sonia was committed to her dream of becoming a judge?

Sonia knew that she needed to do well in school in order to go to college. In the text it states that, "She worked hard to learn English since Spanish was her home language. When she didn't know how to study, she asked a classmate. When she needed help in school, she asked her teachers."

4. What inference can you make from the following details?

She speaks to Latino students because she wants to inspire them to follow their dreams. She also speaks to children with diabetes to encourage them to manage their disease and stay healthy.
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## Possible Answers:

You can infer that Sonia cares about the world and wants to make it a better place.

You can infer that Sonia cares about children.

You can infer that she understands the importance of diabetes management and education.

# Bessie Coleman, Pilot

1. What would have happened if Bessie Coleman had not followed her statement, “I refused to take no as an answer”?

Possible Answers:

- Bessie would not have become a pilot.
- It might have taken longer for Blacks to become pilots.

*Note: Some students may answer that she would have lived longer because she wouldn't have been killed in a plane crash. This is also an acceptable answer.*

2. What detail from the story supports the fact that Bessie Coleman was a brave person?

Possible Answers:

- She moved away from home to Chicago.
- She kept asking people to teach her to fly.
- She moved to France to learn to fly.
- She did tricks and parachuted from her plane.
- She went back to flying after crashing her plane.

3. What detail from the story supports the fact that Bessie Coleman was determined to achieve her dreams?

Possible Answers:

- She kept asking people to teach her to fly.
- She moved to France to learn to fly.
- She earned money to buy a plane so she could open a flight school.

4. What impact did Bessie Coleman have on society?

Possible Answers:

- She showed women that they could become pilots.
- She showed Blacks that they could become pilots.
- She showed people that with determination you can make your dreams a reality.

## James Weldon Johnson, Poet

1. What evidence in the passage supports that statement below?

**Music was an important part of James Weldon Johnson's Life.**

Possible Answers:

- They wanted to write a song to celebrate Abraham Lincoln's birthday.
- Even though James was busy running a school, a newspaper, and a law office he still found time to write poetry and songs.
- The brothers would end up writing over 200 songs for Broadway.
- . He wrote two songs for Theodore Roosevelt's presidential campaign.

2. What evidence in the passage supports that statement below?

**James Weldon Johnson was a hard worker.**

Possible Answers:

- In 1895, while still working as the principal of the school, James decided to start a newspaper.
- Even though James was busy running a school, a newspaper, and a law office he still found time to write poetry and songs.

3. What do you think that James and his brother wanted to write a song for Abraham Lincoln's birthday?

Possible Answer: Lincoln was responsible for the Emancipation Proclamation which freed slaves so they wanted to honor him.

4. James Weldon Johnson had a number of achievements during his life. Which achievement do you think made the most impact on society? Why?

Answers will vary. Answers must include a valid reason.